

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03761 181211Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8556

S E C R E T AMMAN 3761

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR JO US LE SY UR

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR KING HUSSEIN AND ASAD ON LEBANON

REF: STATE 177829

1. I SAW KING HUSSEIN JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE
FOR IRAN AND CONVEYED TO HIM MESSAGE REFTEL.

2. AFTER WE HAD COMPLETED THIS PORTION OF DISCUSSION
KING PICKED UP TELEPHONE AND PUT A CALL TO ASAD.

3. WITHIN FIVE MINUTES ASAD WAS BACK TO THE KING ON
THE PHONE. THE KING THEN PROVIDED ASAD WITH A PRECIS
OF THE MESSAGE IN ARABIC. FROM MY UNDERSTANDING KING
PUT STRESS ON MATTER OF US GENERAL SUPPORT BUT ALSO
TOLD ASAD IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE HAD A MORE PRECISE
IDEA OF EXACTLY WHAT HE HAS IN MIND

4. THE KING TOLD ME THAT ASAD WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE
OF THE MESSAGE AND OF OUR RAPID RESPONSE. HE SEEMED
TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED THIS MORNING ACCORDING TO
THE KING. HUSSEIN TOLD ME HE URGED ASAD TO CLARIFY
FURTHER HIS POSITION WITH US DIRECTLY. KING SAID OF
COURSE HE WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IF WE
DESIRED. AFTER SHORT DISCUSSION WITH KING ON THIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 03761 181211Z

POINT, HE CONCLUDED IT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA FOR

US IF WE HAD SOME SPECIFIC QUESTION FOR ASAD TO REFER TO THE COMMUNICATION THROUGH HUSSEIN AND PUT THOSE QUESTIONS DIRECTLY TO ASAD OR A CLOSE PERSONAL CONFIDANTE OF HIS DIRECTLY IN DAMASCUS.

5. I TOLD KING THAT HE COULD LOOK FORWARD TO BEING IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGH AMBASSADOR HELMS AND CONVEYED YOUR REGARDS AND THANKS FOR HIS ASSISTANCE AND ALSO ASKED HIM TO PASS ON TO ASAD YOUR PERSONAL REGARDS AS WELL. KING DID THIS IN TELEPHONE CALL AND TOLD ME THAT ASAD HAD ASKED HIM TO RESPOND TO YOU IN KIND.

6. KING MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE BRIEFING THE SHAH ON THE SITUATION AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR GENERAL US POSITION. I TOLD KING THAT AMBASSADOR HELMS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF OUR RECENT CONVERSATION AND ASSUMED IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM FROM OUR SIDE IN KEEPING THE SHAH GENERALLY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING. PICKERING

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